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Diana T Fritz 03/29/2007 02:26:44 PM From DB/Inbox: Diana T Fritz

Cable
Text:

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 00513

SIPDIS
CXABU:

ACTION: AMB
INFO: FCS DOJ LEGAT PAO OFAC POL ECON DCM

DISSEMINATION: AMB
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB: MJSISON
DRAFTED: ECON: HALGHAZOU
CLEARED: ECON: OJOHN, ECON: BDEMONTLUZIN CG: KMORRIS, OFAC: JBEAL DCM: MQ

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8647
INFO RUEHZM/GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL COLLECTIVE
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC

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E.O. 12958: DECL N/A
TAGS: [EAID](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAL](#) [IZ](#) [AF](#) [AE](#)
SUBJECT: UAEG CHANNELS EXTERNAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE THROUGH THE
UAE RED CRESCENT

Ref: 05 Abu Dhabi 2741

1. (U) On March 14, 2007, semi-official Arabic daily Al Ittihad, reported that Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum (MbR), UAE Vice President and Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai issued a decree on February 27 to channel external humanitarian assistance by charities, local governments or other entities through the UAE Red Crescent Authority (RCA). The news article said the decision to channel assistance through the RCA was presented to the Cabinet by Maryam Al Roumi, UAE Minister of Social Affairs. (Comment. The UAE passed a law in 2004 mandating that charities route their foreign assistance through the UAE Red Crescent. MbR's decree merely reiterates that charities must comply with this law. End comment.)

2. (U) Mr. Abdul Rahman Al Tunaigi, Director of Information at the UAE Red Crescent, told Econ assistant that local charities already coordinate with the UAE Red Crescent, but noted that the decree will enhance the regulation of external humanitarian assistance. Mr. Al Tunaigi also said that the large, established UAE charities such as the Abu Dhabi-based Sheikh Zayed Foundation and the Dubai-based Mohammed bin Rashid Charitable and Humanitarian Foundation, are not subject to the decree, but noted that these charities often coordinate their external humanitarian assistance with the Red Crescent. Dr. Saleh Al Ta'ai, Red Crescent Director of Relief and Emergency Services, confirmed to Econoff that MbR's decree simply reiterates the 2002 "Charities Law," which mandates that foreign donations be sent through the UAE Red Crescent.

SISON